

MONTEREY COUNTY LABOR NEWS

VOL. X—No. 17

SALINAS, CALIFORNIA, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1947

WHOLE NO. 481

Laundry Workers, Cleaners Hold Salinas Meetings

Laundry Workers Union 258 and Dry Cleaners Union 258-B held separate meetings last week, both transacting routine business of similar nature. Business Representative John W. Deer, of both organizations, reports.

The laundry workers initiated 2 new members at their meeting, the dry cleaners 9 new members.

Both unions voted thanks to committees which arranged union Christmas parties and dinners, and both unions appointed persons to assist the Central Labor Council Christmas Party for Children last Sunday.

Success of recently signed contracts was discussed briefly at both meetings. Deer added.

In Monterey, he concluded, organization of laundry workers is progressing well.

Unionist Fetes 90th Birthday

Mrs. Helen Garcia, an employee of C. B. Gentry Company, informs us that her husband, Albert Garcia, born in Watsonville, and a life long resident of the Central Coast Area, celebrated his 90th birthday Saturday in his Gilroy home at 57 S. Chestnut Street. For the first time in many years a party marked his natal day. Present were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Bee, Mrs. Lena Gallardo all of San Jose; Mrs. Frances Camacho, Gilroy; Mrs. Stella Mata-serrich, Mrs. Helen Voyaydo, both of Watsonville; Frank Bencen-court, Oakland; Mrs. Ed Menud, Watsonville; Frank Bettencourt, Oakland, and Billy Martin of Palo Alto. Thanks to the complete records kept of native Californians in the olden days at the missions, he found out somewhat belatedly that his natal day is December 6th.

A good many of Garcia's 90 years have slipped by with no birthday parties because for a long time he didn't know the date of his birth. Tied in with this circumstance is the fact that although he still goes by the first name of Albert, he also found out that his first name is really Jose.

It probably all started because Garcia's mother died when he was very small. Mothers are great ones for remembering birthdays, and they don't make mistakes about their little boy's first names. Garcia and his brother and sister went to live with an aunt, Mrs. Jim Carter in San Jose who had lost a son of her own named Albert, and she called little Jose by this name, causing him to forget that he had another.

He was reunited with his father who worked at the Almaden mines in the Mt. Hamilton range, and the name Albert stuck as he moved about the country from Vancouver to Mexico to the San Joaquin Valley and finally to San Jose where he lived for many years.

Garcia and his wife attended a pageant at Mission San Juan Bautista several years ago where he conversed with the Mission priest, the Rev. F. J. Caffrey who asked him where he was from and his age. When Garcia replied that he had lost track of birthdays the priest suggested that his birth record might possibly be in the old mission files. After a search the priest was not only able to tell him that he had been born Dec. 6, 1856, but that he was not Albert at all, just Jose Norberto Garcia.

Children Feted At Salinas Labor Christmas Party

Organized labor, headed by the Central Labor Council of Monterey County, combined last Sunday evening to present a party for all children of the Salinas area.

Committees were very active in planning the affair and union members and friends worked diligently to make all arrangements.

Full details will be given in a later issue of the Monterey County Labor News.

1000 Tons Fish For Monterey

More than 1000 tons of fish were trucked in to Monterey's "Cannery Row" last week by heavy trucks coming from Port Hueneme and Santa Barbara.

Fourteen canneries were operating, mostly on horse mackerel and with a few sardines.

Labor Council At Salinas Picks Secretary Jan. 9

Election of a new secretary to succeed Peter A. Andrade, who resigned earlier this month, has been scheduled for Friday, January 9, President Carl Lara of the Council announced last week.

Meetings of the Council scheduled for December 26 and January 2 were cancelled because of the holidays, Lara added.

Andrade, secretary of Teamsters 890, resigned the Labor Council post because of lack of time to devote to the work of the position. His union has tripled its jurisdiction and organizational programs are in full swing, he said.

Nominations were accepted by the Council at last Friday night's meeting for the coming secretarial election.

Painters Busy At Permanente On Big Job

Painters are busy these days painting both plants of the Permanente Metals Corp. at Moss Landing and Natividad. Business Representative Carl Lara of Painters 1104 reports.

J. H. Moore, San Francisco painting contractor, has been put in charge of the project and is using a number of local men from No. 1104.

Men are busy both inside and outside the plants, sand blasting, spraying and doing some brush work, Lara said. The job is expected to take several more days.

TO MEMBERS OF LOCAL 1104: If you are not receiving your official journal from the International Brotherhood of Painters and Decorators, please stop in at the union offices, fill out a postcard with your name and address, and the journal will be sent to you.

These change of address cards and notices to send the journal are for your convenience.

CARL LARA,
Secretary.

Electricians Party Tuesday Of This Week

The annual Christmas party of Electrical Workers Union 243 of Salinas is scheduled for tonight (Tuesday, December 23) at the Bird's Nest at the Army Air Base, Business Representative Carl Lara of this union reports.

Members of the arrangements committee met last Saturday noon to complete arrangements for the affair, which is for members and friends. Invitations must be presented in order to get in, Lara added.

Snell Electric Co. of King City has signed intention of signing an agreement with Local 243, Lara said.

Radiant Homes, Inc. of Monterey has announced plans to build conventional-type prefabricated houses at a new plant in Salinas and installation of electrical equipment at their plant is under way, he added.

Joint Party Set for Jan. 13 By Culinary 467, Bartenders 545

Plans for a joint party for members and guests of Culinary Alliance 467 and Bartenders Union 545, both of Salinas, were announced this week by Bertha A. Boles, secretary of Local 467.

The party will be held at the "Bird's Nest," at the Salinas Army Air Base. All banquet halls of the former airmen's restaurant will be utilized for the affair.

BURNS \$1,000

When a member of Teamsters Union 890 failed to pay his union dues by the first of the month and let his membership lapse—he actually "burned up" or destroyed \$1,000 which should belong to his wife and children.

The member met with untimely death but because he was not in good standing his family failed to receive the \$1,000, which had been set aside through a reliable insurance company as a death benefit for this brother.

MORAL: Pay your dues—keep in good standing.

Butchers Urge U. S. Inspection Of Meats Again

The A. F. of L.'s tri-state conference of butcher unions, representing over fifty thousand butcher workmen in California, Oregon, and Washington, today launched an all-out campaign for the restoration of the federal government's meat inspection program, Earl A. Moorhead, secretary of Butchers Union 506 of San Jose, announced.

The 41-year-old federal meat inspection program, whereby the federal government maintains inspectors at meat-packing plants throughout the nation to insure that cattle slaughtered for human consumption are free of disease, was terminated by Congress last July in what the butchers' unions condemned as "a penny-wise, pound-foolish, so-called economy move led by Representative Everett Dirksen of Illinois."

Pointing out that the 11-million-dollar annual inspection program had protected the health of the American people at an average cost of less than 8 cents per person since 1906, butchers' union spokesmen urged the public to flood Congress with letters demanding the restoration of federal inspection by the government.

"If meat inspection is turned back to the meat packers, this so-called economy move will merely result in the packers adding the cost of inspection to the price of meat," Moorhead stated. "Furthermore, inspectors directly on the packers' payrolls will naturally tend to hold their employers' interests higher than the public welfare."

"Meat inspectors should be absolutely free to do their job without regard to anything other than offering the American people the greatest possible protection against diseased meat. The only way this can be accomplished is through a federal meat inspection program."

The butchers' unions particularly urged the participation of local community organizations in an effort to compel Congress to restore the federal meat inspection program at the earliest possible moment.

News Items About APPRENTICES

The Apprentice of Today Is the Journeyman of Tomorrow

SALINAS VALLEY AREA AUTOMOTIVE TRADES JAC

The committee's action was called to the fact that school attendance was extremely poor, endangering the entire program. After considerable consideration, the secretary was instructed to: (1) prepare a resolution outlining penalties to be imposed on apprentices who do not live up to their agreements; (2) prepare a letter to employers and apprentices outlining joint obligations in respect to the over-all objective of the training program; (3) prepare a plan to properly evaluate apprentices before they are indentured; (4) institute a work experience and school attendance record for each apprentice.

CULINARY 467 SEATS OFFICERS

Culinary Alliance 467 of Salinas installed officers at the union's last meeting, International Representative C. T. McDonough serving as installing officer.

McDonough spoke briefly to the union membership, obligated the new officers, and presented new President Cecil Hauntz with a new gavel.

The report claimed that the AFM and Petrelli "still commit acts in restraint of trade; exercise monopolistic control over all commercial phases of musical production; license producers of recordings, radio and movies . . ." Hartley has frequently indicated his desire to subject unions to the federal anti-trust laws. Petrelli is scheduled to go on trial in Chicago on December 30 on an indictment charging violation of the Lea Act.

Monterey Fair Set Sept. 23

Dates for the Monterey County Fair at Monterey have been set for September 23-26, Fred S. McCargar, secretary-manager, reports.

McCargar formerly was secretary of the California Rodeo at Salinas and the Salinas Chamber of Commerce, doing an excellent job in both capacities prior to becoming secretary of the county fair.

True People's Mandate Is 1948 Goal

Bear in Mind at Xmas Time!

BUY ONLY XMAS GIFTS THAT BEAR UNION LABELS!



Season's Greetings and Best Wishes to all friends—members of trade unions, women's auxiliaries, union label leagues and others—who have so ardently supported our worthy cause by patronizing only firms that display, the Union Label, Shop Card, or Button.

J. M. Ornburn
Secretary-Treasurer

Union Label Trades Department—American Federation of Labor

New Prosecution Of AFL Musicians Asked by Hartley

Washington (LPA)—The Taft-Hartley law should be "strengthened" and additional anti-labor legislation should be enacted to hog-tie the American Federation of Musicians (AFL), according to a report made recently by the House Labor Committee, headed by Representative Fred Hartley (R., N. J.).

The committee urged the Justice Department to open new prosecutions of the AFM and President James C. Petrelli for "offenses in violation of the Lea (anti-Petrelli) Act" and to study the possibility of prosecuting him and the union under the anti-trust laws.

The report claimed that the AFM and Petrelli "still commit acts in restraint of trade; exercise monopolistic control over all commercial phases of musical production; license producers of recordings, radio and movies . . ." Hartley has frequently indicated his desire to subject unions to the federal anti-trust laws. Petrelli is scheduled to go on trial in Chicago on December 30 on an indictment charging violation of the Lea Act.

The union gave McDonough an ovation upon return of the union, which has been under international trusteeship, to local autonomy. Two new members were initiated, according to Secretary Bertha Boles, who had been elected without opposition after serving as secretary during the trusteeship.

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IN CANADA TOO—A DOLLAR AINT A DOLLAR ANYMORE

Ottawa.—Canadian workers now demanding that the government roll back and control prices, find a glaring demonstration of inflation when they cash in their war savings certificates, equivalent to U. S. war bonds.

During the war, Canadians purchased war savings certificates for \$4, which can now be cashed in for \$5. But the \$5 they are worth today doesn't buy nearly as much as the \$4 they cost when they went on sale in 1940.

Ottawa store ads show that in 1940 the \$4 would have bought two dozen eggs, 70c; two pounds of bacon, 50c; four pounds of roast beef, \$1; two pounds of butter, 62c; one pound of coffee, 31c; a can of cocoa, 19c; three cans of pork and beans, 25c; three bunches of celery, 18c; a dozen oranges, 25c. Total \$4.

The meetings are in regard to adjustment of wage schedules covering workers in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito Counties, Moorhead said.

A meeting has been scheduled for Monday, December 29, at San Jose Labor Temple (8 p.m.) for wholesale fish butchers and retail fish butchers in regard to their contract demands, Moorhead added.

At Salinas, employers of union butcher shops met with the City Council last week in regard to a closing ordinance for butcher shops, such as in effect in San Jose, Gilroy, Hollister and other major cities. The City Council postponed action on the ordinance pending a public hearing on the matter on January 5.

Labor Can't Live With Slave Law

Too often now it seems that there is expressed the opinion that organized labor has to live with the Taft-Hartley slave law, when the truth is it cannot live with the slave law, anymore than the lamb can live with the wolf. There should be a thunderous demand of all organized labor that the Congress now in session repeal the Taft-Hartley act immediately to keep faith with the people of this nation and to maintain the respect of the world for our form of government.—Minneapolis Labor Review, AFL.

Butchers Seek New Contracts

Butchers Union 506 of San Jose is in negotiation for new contracts for various divisions, Secretary Earl A. Moorhead reports.

At a meeting with representatives of various abbatoirs in four counties and the San Jose Employers Council last week, the employers asked that the meetings be extended to include representatives of by-product plants.

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JOE EKLUND / NEW AGENT, LOCAL 296

Joseph Eklund has been named business agent of Sales and Delivery Teamsters 296 of San Jose and Santa Clara and Santa Cruz Counties, succeeding C. P. "Kelly" Edwards, who passed away two weeks ago, Secretary George W. Jenott of Local 296 reports.

Bro. Jenott also asked that the Christmas greetings and wishes for a Happy New Year be extended to all members from the officers and office workers of Local 296.

AFL Prepares for '48



To lick the labor-haters who passed the Taft-Hartley law, the AFL's newly formed Labor's Educational and Political League plans to raise \$8 million—a dollar apiece from each AFL member, Pres. William Green announced December 5 after a meeting of 105 union presidents.

Brave NLRB Man Dismisses Case Filed by Denham

Washington.—An NLRB trial examiner, acting with little apparent care for his own job, has recommended dismissal of an employer's charge that a strike resulting from failure to reinstate a discharged worker constituted coercion and restraint of other employees in violation of the Taft-Hartley Act.

The bold trial examiner is Horace A. Ruckel, and he recommended dismissal of the complaint issued by none other than his boss, NLRB General Counsel Robert N. Denham, charging the strike was set up to force the company to violate its contract with the United Boot and Shoe Workers (AFL).

What happened in this, the first trial examiner's decision since the new law took effect August 22, follows:

The Perry Norwell Co. at Huntington, W. Va., fired Pat Tyree, a worker, and on its refusal to reinstate him, the strike began spontaneously August 21, 1947 while the plant was under contract with the AFL union, against which Ruckel said there had been some dissatisfaction.

Then the company filed unfair labor practice charges against the United Shoe Workers (CIO) and the Perry-Norwell Shoe Workers Committee (unaffiliated), charging them with interfering with the right of the AFL local to represent the workers.

Efforts of the AFL local to get the men to return to work proved ineffective, and on August 25 the unaffiliated committee was formed and the plant was effectively tied up until October 21, when the company attempted to reopen it despite picketing.

Trial Examiner Ruckel declared that the strike did not take place until the management's "final rejection of the request of Local 613 (AFL), and the employees, that Tyree be reinstated to his job." He said it seems clear that "the peaceful means" available to the employees were exhausted, and that the strike which followed was not in violation of the contract, and it is so found.

Ruckel said there was "no actual restraint or coercion exercised by the respondents herein, or their agents," and that the theory of Boss

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Farm Workers Real Pay As Low as in 1930s NFLU Delegates Assert

Little Rock, Ark.—Lashing out in a bitter attack upon the 80th Congress, the executive council of the National Farm Labor Union—AFL, reported to the opening session of the union's 14th annual convention that "the real wages paid to farm workers are now as low as they were at any time during the depression of the 1930's."

Meeting Dec. 12, 13 and 14, under the chairmanship of H. L. Mitchell, union president, 200 delegates, white and Negro, from all over the United States, unanimously approved the charges made by their executive council against Congress.

"The most severe blow struck at farm workers by the Congress came when it ordered the liquidation of all government housing projects for farm labor," stated the report.

"The first proposals advanced by the industrialized farm interests were for the federal government to sell the 56 permanent farm labor housing projects only to private associations of growers, and for the federal government to lend them money at low interest rates to purchase the farm workers' homes."

After pointing out that this proposal, incorporated in the Hope-Capper Bill, was too raw for even the 80th Congress, the farm union executive council reported its efforts to gain support for the substitute measure introduced by Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas (R., Cal.), which had the support of the union. The Douglas bill is still pending.

The council stated that "One of the blackest marks on the record of the Congress of the United States" took place when "a compromise measure was quickly introduced and passed to permit the federal government to lease the farm labor housing to private associations of big farm operators and to sell all such housing before June 30, 1949. As a result, all of the farm labor camps built by the government for the use of farm workers and their families are now in the hands of the big farmers."

"The result has been that rents have greatly increased, health and sanitation services have been abolished, and all child care services are at an end. The workers who reside in these farm labor camps are at the mercy of the big farm operators."

In addition to discussing these problems, the executive council also took up the extension of social security benefits for farm workers; a wage and hour law for agriculture; a labor relations law for farm workers; the report of President Truman's Civil Rights Committee and the organizational progress of the union.

Japanese Umps Want Raise

Tokyo.—Japan's professional baseball umpires have announced their intention to quit as a group unless their demand for an 80 per cent pay increase is met. They are also holding out for annual instead of seasonal payment.

Forty-one towns in 10 southern states now employ Negro policemen.

VOTE IN '48.

Remember, Yellow and Checker Cabs, newly organized group. This firm is entitled to your patronage. Tell your friends when using a taxi call Yellow or Checker Cab Company in Salinas. In the event you are in Monterey call the San Carlos Cab Company.

When purchasing gasoline, oil, lube jobs, tires or wash job, patronize the Firestone Tire Service, Don Hultz and Rhoades Tires. These firms are 100 per cent union. Union members are employed by these firms.

Patronize union services; the only guarantee you have that the ones are receiving decent wages and working conditions.

Pay your dues. Keep up your good standing in order to receive benefits from the Union.

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C. B. GENTRY, GILROY

Harvey Whitney, steward at the C. B. Gentry Company, is leaving for Oklahoma to resume farming. Harvey left his farm during the war, coming to California and since that time has been employed at the C. B. Gentry Company in Gilroy. The officers and members of Local 890 wish him the best of luck.

Dorothy Krueger, former member employed at the C. B. Gentry Company, is now operating Doc's Patio Service Cafe, one mile north of Gilroy. Members, drop in and see her.

Geraldine Horling, now Mrs. Al Larson, is back on the job after honeymooning at Olympia, Wash. Best of luck to you both.

Bud Kenyon, business agent, thanks the members that had their lunch in the laboratory for the pot luck lunch. Sure was swell.

GENTRY PLANT PARTY

An enjoyable event of Sunday night was the Christmas party given at the Holzhauser home on Prunedale Ave. by ladies of the mill room of the Gentry plant.

At six o'clock the guests found places at a long, colorfully decorated table to enjoy a delicious din-

ner which they had prepared. The decor carried out the yuletide theme, the centerpiece being composed of an arrangement of fir twigs, pine cones and Christmas ornaments flanked by tall red tapers.

A beautiful birthday cake was cut in honor of Mrs. Adeline Guerra.

From the brightly lighted and gaily decorated Christmas tree gifts were distributed after dinner and carols and songs were sung by the group, with dancing concluding the entertainment.

Present were Mesdames Lena Rizzutto, Adeline Guerra, Elvira Soares, Mary Reis, Ethel Martinez, Edith Brewster, Mary Gutierrez, May Candler, Merle Husky, Esther Auser, Misses Mary Pulida, Carmen Aguilar, Rosalie Della Bitta; Mary Ann Foster, Anna Holzhauser, Kathleen Holzhauser; Mr. and Mrs. Martin Holzhauser.

After the deadline date, policies that have lapsed more than three months cannot be reinstated without the veteran proving his insurability by a complete physical examination.

At the present time, and until the end of the year, a veteran may reinstate term insurance in most cases by simply signing a statement to the effect that his health is as good as it was at the time of lapse. Then, by payment of two monthly premiums, his insurance can be reinstated.

Student veterans are warned that if they drop out of schools and colleges before completing their course they will have to comply with more strict requirements before getting a VA certificate to reenter training under the GI Bill.

Veterans must obtain a supplemental certificate of eligibility from VA before changing from one school or training establishment to another.

A veteran, who of his own volition interrupts his training at a time other than at the end of a term, semester or training period, will not be issued a supplementary certificate until he establishes satisfactory evidence that:

1. His interruption resulted from good cause, such as illness, economic conditions, or other circumstances beyond his control.

2. The institution or establishment in which he was training is willing to reaccept him as a student or trainee.

When purchasing gasoline, oil, lube jobs, tires or wash job, patronize the Firestone Tire Service, Don Hultz and Rhoades Tires. These firms are 100 per cent union. Union members are employed by these firms.

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GENTRY PLANT PARTY

An enjoyable event of Sunday night was the Christmas party given at the Holzhauser home on Prunedale Ave. by ladies of the mill room of the Gentry plant.

At six o'clock the guests found places at a long, colorfully decorated table to enjoy a delicious din-

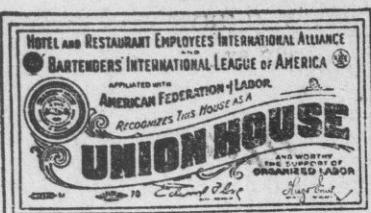
ner which they had prepared. The decor carried out the yuletide theme, the centerpiece being composed of an arrangement of fir twigs, pine cones and Christmas ornaments flanked by tall red tapers.

A beautiful birthday cake was cut in honor of Mrs. Adeline Guerra.

From the brightly lighted and gaily decorated Christmas tree gifts were distributed after dinner and carols and songs were sung by the group, with dancing concluding the entertainment.

Present were Mesdames Lena Rizzutto, Adeline Guerra, Elvira Soares, Mary Reis, Ethel Martinez, Edith Brewster, Mary Gutierrez, May Candler, Merle Husky, Esther Auser, Misses Mary Pulida, Carmen Aguilar, Rosalie Della

LOCAL 483 REPORTS



HOTEL AND RESTAURANT
EMPLOYEES & BARTENDERS
ALLIANCE 483
MONTEREY, CALIFORNIA

The death of another 483 member was reported from San Francisco on December 9th. Brother Mike Marcus Moss, former cook at Casa Munras, passed away on that date. Mike had led a most interesting life, having been at one time the manager of the Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La. and a State Office appointee under the late Huey P. Long. His passing was noted throughout the country by the Associated Press.

The Christmas Party, held at the Union Hall on Sunday, December 14, was pronounced a huge success by the large group of members and their families who attended. During the entire time of the party, it is estimated that more than 400 persons dropped in for various lengths of time.

The large attendance, and the many compliments, were indeed a tribute to the hard working committee which planned and put on the party. Crystal Ross, chairman, Penny Caldwell (and both their husbands!), Johnny Midla, Lucile McNally, Mickey Bakle, Gale Anderson, Willie McKenzie (who spent most of the preceding night waxing the entire half floor!), and several other conscientious members all worked mightily for the success of the affair.

Jimmy Brown contributed the tree (where did he get that tree?), and the girls of the committee, with the help of President Harvey and Johnny Midla (again!), decorated and fire-proofed the tree.

The cooperation of the "bosses" of the Monterey area was excellent throughout, also. The following firms and individuals contributed refreshments to the party: Cardi's, Brown Derby, Columbia Bar, Alvarado Inn, Kentucky Derby, Town House, Capitol Bar, Mecca Bar, H & H Lumber Co. (not wood, either!), My Attic, Blue Bell, Palm Garden, Biff's, Blue Ox, Anchor Bar, Keg, Cinnabar, Show Bar, San Carlos, Casa Munras, Peninsula Wine House, Domenic's (twice!), Halfway House, Techeau Inn, Waldorf, and Marotta's Liquor Store.

In addition . . . Many thanks to Tony and Harvey of the Rainbow, Cliff and Lorraine of El Nido Restaurant, and Eric and Marie of Derby Restaurant for making up the fine salads used on the buffet. And . . . no party is complete without music—so, more thanks to Nick Marotta and all the musicians of El Nido; to Mike and Art Marotta, with Mary Ann, and the other musicians of Cinnabar; to Barbara from Domenic's; to Jimmy Brucia of Show Bar for the use of the piano, and to Stan Douglas and Bud Giles for use of the juke box for "intermission" music.

A hearty "Thank You, and Mer-

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COAL MINERS
ARE 'ELITE'
IN POLAND

By BOB TRAVIS

Katowice, Poland.—Coal Miners are today the "elite" of Poland. The economy of the country depends on coal. Miners are classified in the top category for wages, social services, priorities in housing, food, etc. New communities are springing up in the mining areas. Instead of the traditional dilapidated mine towns, Polish miners are now moving into new, modern homes with basement, bath and electricity.

Before the war miners were lucky if they worked three days a week. Now there are no layoffs and there won't be any. In pre-war Poland children of 13 to 16 could be found working full-time in the mines. Now, to go below, a youngster must be 18 years old and have a specified amount of schooling. If an 18-year-old falls short, he can work only half-time and must attend school the rest.

I had a day-long interview with the leaders of the Miners Union, which has been responsible for many of the improvements. The union, with 350,000 members, is completely united, whereas before the war there were nine competing unions, representing a total of only 30,000 miners.

President of the union is 46-year-old Josef Szczesniak, a deputy in the Polish Parliament. He spent three years in the Myslowice concentration camp and before that, like every other member of the executive committee, he worked in the pits. Here are some of the results of mine union activity:

FREE LUNCH

Each miner gets a free lunch every workday—soup, meat, potatoes, vegetables, bread and coffee.

Miners have a yearly paid vacation, two weeks minimum up to one month after 10 years. The union runs 82 resorts where the members pay only one-third of the cost of food and lodging. The industry, social security and union pay the rest. Some Polish-born miners in the U.S. may remember swanky Zepacane, in the mountains, where the union now has three resorts.

Medical and dental services, hospitalization and prescriptions are free under the new social security laws.

The sick list is still with us, and this week reports are that Evelyn Miller is convalescing at home following an emergency operation. Keep your chin up, Evelyn, and get well quickly! Karl Puhl, of the Mission Inn, is feeling much better, reports Brother Pete Puhl, and will be back on the job soon. Eula Norbeck of the San Carlos Kitchen is on the sick list . . . don't stay there long, Eula. And Fred Tayag, San Carlos pantryman, who had gained from 6½ to 17 pounds during the month's stay. The food is the best—milk, butter, eggs, meat, vegetables, bread and fruit. The miners reminded me that two years ago, when CIO leader Leo Krzycki visited them, all they could serve was bread.

Coupons for clothes, shoes, etc., are given to miners before any other category. A miner is eligible for the following per month: 48 pounds of bread, 11 pounds of butter, 4½ pounds of kasha, 4½ pounds of wheat, 4½ pounds of sugar, 38 pounds of potatoes, 10½ pounds of meat. All this can be bought with his coupons for 136 zloty. The same food would cost about 3,200 zloty on the open market. This food is just for the miner; his wife and children get separate allotments on a different basis. Children, for instance, get milk, butter, meat, eggs and candy.

Thousands of miners are earning from 16,000 to 18,000 zloty a month. Some get as much as 26,000 a month. All taxes, social security, health and accident insurance are paid by the industry without deductions from miners' pay.

LOW-COST HOMES AVAILABLE

For one of the new, modern, prefabricated houses that are being imported from Finland, miners pay 90 zloty monthly. Old apartments cost a lot less.

If a miner is sick or injured, he gets 75 per cent of his wages for as long as he is off the job, plus five per cent additional for each child. For full disability as a result of accident he gets full pay as long as he lives. Union dues are one per cent of his wages, with no assessments.

The wages of the mine union president are set on the basis of what the miners earn. He receives 17,000 zloty per month. His allocations for food and clothing are like those of a surface worker. The general secretary and vice-presidents receive 12,000 zloty. Union President Szczesniak pointed out: "If more salary is paid, there is a tendency to forget the lives the workers live. And then you can no longer adequately represent them."

"Aussies Will Never
Fight Russians"

Sydney—New South Wales housing minister Clive Evatt, brother of Australia's foreign minister, has called for an end to anti-Soviet propaganda. "The improvement in the Russian people's working conditions," he said, "has been spectacular. . . . The Australian labor movement continually fights to improve the working conditions of our people. Our movement rejoices, therefore, when workers of other lands obtain improved standards. The Australian people refuse to be seduced into a feeling of hatred against the people of Russia. . . . Australians will never fight Russians."

And speaking of flowers, a wall-flower is a gal who wears sweaters just to keep warm.

FRENCH WORKERS
WIN RAISES, BONUS,
FAMILY ALLOWANCES

By MARCEL DUBOIS

PARIS—France's month-long strike wave ended as the General Confederation of Labor (CGT) ordered two million workers to return to their jobs Dec. 10.

The CGT order followed a settlement of labor's demands on the following terms:

A monthly cost of living bonus of 1500 francs (about \$12) for all workers, including strikers, retroactive to Nov. 24.

An increase in the monthly minimum wage. Present minimum is \$55 and the CGT had demanded \$60. Settlement is expected to be around \$57.

Consideration of the CGT's demand for an overall economic policy relating wages to prices. The government rejected the CGT's demand that wages be reviewed and brought in line with living costs every three months.

STRIKERS RELEASED

Release of all jailed strikers except those found guilty of sabotage or of violating the new anti-strike law which makes it illegal to interfere with the "freedom to work." The latter provision makes it illegal to attempt to stop a scab from entering a struck plant.

Payment of family allowances to strikers and non-strikers alike.

The settlement gave the CGT virtually all its demands except for the 3-month wage review, full pay for strikers for the time they were out and release of all jailed strikers regardless of the reason for their arrest.

Many observers who had endeavored to prove that the strike had purely political motives interpreted the settlement as a complete defeat for labor. However, the record shows that workers' demands throughout the strike were economic ones and that they made substantial gains in the settlement.

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Each miner gets a free lunch every workday—soup, meat, potatoes, vegetables, bread and coffee.

Miners have a yearly paid vacation, two weeks minimum up to one month after 10 years. The union runs 82 resorts where the members pay only one-third of the cost of food and lodging. The industry, social security and union pay the rest. Some Polish-born miners in the U.S. may remember swanky Zepacane, in the mountains, where the union now has three resorts.

Medical and dental services, hospitalization and prescriptions are free under the new social security laws.

The union also runs resorts for miners' children. I visited Murzki, one of the 100-odd such spots, and found 134 happy schoolgirls who had gained from 6½ to 17 pounds during the month's stay.

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VETERANS' CASES

Washington—The Labor Department veterans' reemployment rights division had nearly 2,000 cases pending Dec. 1, it was announced here. During November, the division closed 612 cases, securing \$33,000 cash payment to veterans in lieu of reinstatement to jobs they held before entering the service.

During his appearance before the Senate committee examining the threatened New England fuel shortage, President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers chats with Senator Owen Brewster (R., Me.). Stating that there is no coal shortage in the country, Lewis blamed present heating problems on the wave of conversions to oil.

House Prices
Up 132 Percent
Costs Double

Washington — While the cost of building a house has about doubled since 1939, on the basis of Federal Home Loan Bank figures, selling prices of houses have jumped 132 per cent—and this extra velvet is encouraging the present boom in construction.

The price tag on the average house being bought and sold in today's market is \$10,648 on a national basis. In 1939, this average was \$4,599, or somewhat less than half present prices.

In a monthly release of housing price data, the United Industrial Associates, a market research and engineering corporation, declared that Los Angeles is the most inflated market in the U. S. Prices of homes in Los Angeles have almost tripled since 1939, with the house that sold for \$5,377 in 1939 now going for \$14,817.

UIA placed New York, Chicago and Boston in the "high priced market" level with homes that sold for \$6,000 in the prewar period being moved for \$12,000 to \$14,000.

Kansas City, Philadelphia and St. Louis are in the low cost housing category despite advances, with prices in the three cities ranging under \$7,500.

As an example of what is happening, the study cited a number of cities with comparative prices, which follow:

	Average Price	Since '39	June '47
City	1939	Jun '47	Nov '47
Boston	\$5,558	12,300	13,150
Buffalo	4,968	7,947	8,955
Chicago	5,232	11,350	12,433
Cleveland	5,230	10,523	10,837
Detroit	4,445	7,548	7,939
Houston	4,275	6,897	8,460
Indianapolis	3,110	6,230	7,714
Los Angeles	5,377	14,281	14,817
Pittsburgh	5,294	9,122	11,148
San Francisco	4,210	9,980	11,008

Per Cent Increase Since June '47

	Since '39	June '47
Boston	136.6	6.9
Buffalo	80.3	12.7
Chicago	137.6	9.5
Cleveland	107.1	3.0
Detroit	78.6	5.2
Houston	97.9	24.2
Indianapolis	133.1	23.7
Los Angeles	175.6	3.7
Pittsburgh	110.6	22.3
San Francisco	161.5	10.3

Construction Drops 5 Pct. in November

Washington, D. C.—Construction activity underwent a less than seasonal decline in November, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor.

November expenditures for all types of construction were 5 percent under the revised estimates for October—the peak month for 1947.

Compared with November 1946, expenditures for new construction and repair work showed a gain of 26 percent. Activity during the month marked by a new high level in homebuilding and continued advance in commercial construction.

Construction contractors dropped 42,500 employees in November. Nevertheless, their average employment for the month was only 3 percent under the postwar peak reached in September, and exceeded November 1946 employment by 8 percent.

Homebuilding expenditures reached an all-time monthly high in November. This new homebuilding in November accounted for 55 percent of all dollars spent and all workers employed on privately financed projects